



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **District Woman Gets Eight-Year Prison Term In Shooting Death of Her Husband**

WASHINGTON - Kristin Kozak 38, was sentenced today to eight years in prison in connection with the August 2009 shooting death of her husband, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Kozak pled guilty in June to voluntary manslaughter while armed. She was sentenced in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia by the Honorable Judge Lynn Leibovitz.

At the plea hearing, Kozak admitted that on August 10, 2009, at approximately 6:18 p.m., she called 911 and said that she shot her husband, Michael Burnett, at their apartment in the 1500 block of Pennsylvania Avenue SE. Police and paramedics arrived at the apartment a few minutes later. Kozak led them to her husband, who was suffering from two gunshot wounds. A handgun was on the bed next to him. The victim, 58, was transported to Prince George's County Hospital and pronounced dead. Medical examiners concluded that the cause of death was gunshot wounds to his head and back.

Kozak was arrested on the night of the shooting, waived her rights, and gave a videotaped statement to the police at the police station. In that statement, she stated that she and her husband got into an argument prior to the shooting. At some point, he got very angry and he appeared to reach for a dresser drawer in the bedroom. Kozak, who said she believed that her husband was reaching for a knife or a weapon, grabbed a gun from the closet and shot him two times.

The defendant admitted that Burnett was not armed or trying to attack her at the time of the shooting, though knives were found in the drawer that he was reaching for. She also told the police that her husband was physically abusive to her in the past. In addition, she acknowledged that she was under the influence of heroin at the time of the shooting. The autopsy of the victim revealed that he was under the influence of cocaine at the time of the shooting.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the work of Metropolitan Police Detectives Jamell Stallings, Anthony Patterson, Douglas Carlson, and Carol Queen of the Violent Crime Branch, along with First District Officers Donald Marshall and Mark Nassar. He also commended Paralegal Specialist Kelly Margaret Blakeney and Victim Witness Advocate Marcy Rinker. Finally, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles W. Cobb, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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